THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 16, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

PRAVEEN BEGI

FOR A FEW HOURS, INDIA ON TOP OF ICC TEST RANKINGS

Due to some technical glitch, the International Cricket Council website placed India ahead of Australia in the afternoon

CONVINCING WIN IN SERIES WILL ENSURE SPOT

When the ICC rectified its gaffe, India were back to No 2, 11 rating points behind Australia (126) in Test rankings. To ensure the top spot, the hosts have to beat Australia in the four-Test series convincingly. The second Test begins on Friday. India are already on top of the one-day international and T20I rankings after a powerful display against New Zealand and Sri Lanka

ASHWIN RANKED NO 2 IN BOWLING

- Ravichandran Ashwin jumped to the second spot in the men's Test bowlers rankings after his match-winning spell at Nagpur
- Ravindra Jadeja, who had a five-wicket haul and a half century in Nagpur, is top ranked all-rounder followed by Ashwin
- Suryakumar tops T20 batting; Siraj leads in ODI bowling | P17

115
INDIA'S RATING POINTS ON ICC TEST RANKINGS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Slew of steps to bolster border with China

Cabinet approves new ITBP battalions; Ladakh tunnel; developing select villages in 19 districts to reverse migration

AMIT MUKHERJEE @New Delhi

THE Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a clutch of proposals to strengthen the frontier with China, including raising seven new battalions of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), building a 4.1-km all-weather tunnel for connectivity to Ladakh's border areas and a project to stem migration from border villages in the north.

The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared a proposal to hire 9,400 fresh personnel for seven new battalions apart from a new operational base for the ITBP, which is deployed across the Line of Actual Control with China. India is locked in a stand-off along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since mid-2020.

The additional battalions will be raised to man 47 new Border Out Posts and 12 staging camps along the LAC, Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said. The new personnel will be stationed mainly in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Cabinet also approved the construction of a 4.1-km Shinkun La tunnel on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha road link to provide all-weather connectivity to the border areas of Ladakh. It is slated to be completed by December 2025 at a cost of ₹1,681 crore. This (project) is also very important as far as the security and safety of the country is concerned.... It will also help in the movement of our security forces in that region," Thakur said.

The Cabinet also approved a scheme to reverse outmigration from border villages in the north, called the Vibrant Villages Programme, with allocation of ₹4,800 crore till 2025-26. A Centrally sponsored project, it involves comprehensive development of specified villages on the northern border to improve the quality of life of people there so as to encourage them to stay in their native locations. It is expected to improve security of the border.

The scheme aims to develop essential infrastructure and create livelihood opportunities in 19 districts and 46 border blocks in four states and one Union Territory along the northern land border. In the first phase, 663 villages will be taken up for development, Thakur said. Of the ₹4,800 crore earmarked for the scheme, ₹2,500 crore will be spent on building roads.

The scheme aims to identify and develop the economic drivers based on local natural human and other resources of the border villages and development of growth centres on hub-and-spoke model through promotion of entrepreneurship.

Development push for border villages

The Vibrant Village Programme aims to build all-weather roads, provide drinking water, ensure 24x7 electricty and mobile and internet connectivity

BBC survey continues, likely to drag to 3rd day

AMIT MUKHERJEE @New Delhi

TAX sleuths continued their survey on four premises of the BBC for the second day on Wednesday, over the British media outlet's alleged diversion of profits by violating India's transfer-pricing rules (TPR) to avoid tax.

According to sources in the tax department, the survey is likely to continue on Thursday. It may extend further depending on when the officials, who are poring over the financial records of the company, will complete information gathering.

The survey was initiated to assess suspected tax evasion and its quantum by the broadcasting company's division in India, which had allegedly shown expenditures that were never incurred. Sources said officials are perusing documents related to accounts that date as many as 10 years back.

The focus of the survey is to look into manipulation of prices for unauthorised benefits, including tax advantages. TPR is applicable to firms operating in multiple global locations. Profits generated by offices of different countries come under the ambit of tax laws of the country of operations.

Reactions to taxmen's action against BBC continued on Wednesday. Indirectly referring to the BBC documentary on Modi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar warned against falling for 'doctored narratives' aimed at running down India's growth story. Urging people to be vigilant about such tendencies, he said: "Now, if an India is on the rise, sinister designs are there to set afloat a narrative by free fall of information. We have to be alert. This dumping of information is another way of invasion. We have to boldly neutralise it."

When asked for reaction, US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters that the US "is aware" of the survey operation at BBC offices by Indian tax authorities but is not in a position to offer its judgement. The US supports the importance of free press around the world, he added.

It's political vendetta, says Didi

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday alleged the tax department's survey on BBC offices is the BJP-led central government's 'political vendetta'

2 die, 34 fall ill after drinking contaminated water in Yadgir

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI @Kalaburagi

TWO persons died and 34 others fell ill after drinking contaminated water at Anupur village of Gurmitkal taluk in Yadgir district within 24 hours between Tuesday and Wednesday, Yadgir District Health officer Dr Gururaj Hiregowdar said.

Of the 34 people who are ill, including men, women and children, 15 were admitted to the Yadgir District Government Hospital, while the remaining are being treated at Narayanpet Hospital.

On Tuesday morning, 35-year-old Savitramma died during treatment. Dr Hiregowdar said on Wednesday, he received information that the condition of Sayamma worsened and she was shifted to a hospital at Mahabubnagar in Telangana where she died.

A 15-member medical team has been sent to Anupur. No fresh cases were reported since Wednesday afternoon, said Dr Hiregowdar, who is camping at Anupur.

He said Anupur residents are supplied drinking water from a water tank, and the pipe was leaking at two places. The repair work has begun, he added.

AERO INDIA ATTRACTS ₹80K CRORE INVESTMENT

CHETAN MG @Bengaluru

THE Bandhan ceremony, organised as part of the 14th edition of Aero India, witnessed the forging of 266 partnerships, including 201 memorandums of understanding, 53 major announcements, nine product launches and three transfers of technology (ToTs), worth around Rs 80,000 crore. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that a record 75 per cent of the defence capital procurement budget has been earmarked for the domestic industry in the Financial Year 2023-24.

Speaking at the Bandhan event here on Wednesday, Singh emphasised that the partnerships forged with friendly countries will take their bilateral collaboration with India to the next level.

The Sarang display team puts up a show on the third day of Aero India at Yelahanka Air Base | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

"The MoUs and ToTs completed during Bandhan will pave the way for enhanced foreign direct investment in defence and take manufacturing in the sector to greater heights," he said, defining Bandhan as not just an agreement between two sides limited to economic benefit, but a new resolution to bolster the nation in the defence domain.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Avoid Ballari Rd

The police have advised people to avoid using Ballari Road on Thursday and Friday as a large number of people are expected to attend Aero India

EXPRESS READ

Those who worship Tipu should not exist, says Kateel

Koppal: BJP Karnataka unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel here on Wednesday kicked up a controversy, saying, "This is the land where people who worship Tipu should not exist and those who venerate Rama should remain." He said, "We are the people who develop Anjanadri Hills and we are not the children of Tipu. I ask the people of Yelaburga: Do you worship Anjaneya or Tipu? Those who chant the name of Tipu, will you send them to the forest or not?" He said it is for the people to decide whether Anjaneya bhakts or those who adore Tipu should be sitting in Vidhana Soudha.

2 held for plot to kill MLA for ₹2 cr supari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TWO men were arrested for allegedly conspiring to kill Bommanahalli MLA M Satish Reddy. MLA's personal assistant A Harish Babu, who got a tipoff that a supari of Rs 2 crore has been given to execute the murder, filed a complaint at the Bommanahalli police station.

The accused, Akash and Gagan, are from Holalkere in Chitradurga district. Babu's complaint names rowdy sheeter Nagaraj alias Wilson Garden Naga as accused number 1 in the case.

The complaint states that Naga and the other accused struck the deal between February 3 and 11, while the complaint was filed on February 11. Babu has also managed to get an audio clipping of the conversation among the accused, and has handed it over to the police.

The police initially filed a non-cognisable report and later registered an FIR. P5

SBI
The banker to every Indian
INTEREST RATE LIKE NEVER BEFORE
7.10%
Presenting Amrit Kalash Deposit with increased interest rate
400 days tenure
Domestic and NRI customers
Valid up to 31st March 2023
7.60% interest rate for senior citizens
For details, scan QR code
T & C Apply
For assistance, call 1800 1234 / 2100 or visit bank.sbi
Follow us on

Sabse Pehle Life Insurance
G20
Plan Your LIFETIME GUARANTEED MONTHLY INCOME NOW with our Enhanced Annuity Rates
Annuity can start after minimum deferment period of One Year.
2 YEARS
4 YEARS
6 YEARS
LIC's NEW
JEEVAN SHANTI
UIN-512N338V04 • Plan No. 850
A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Single Premium, Deferred Annuity Plan
12 YEARS
MAXIMUM DEFERMENT PERIOD for Annuity plan
Also Available Online
Fixed Annuity Rates from inception of Policy
Multiple Annuity options
Increasing Death Benefit during deferment period
Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090 Say 'Hi'
Download LIC Mobile App
Visit: licindia.in
Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827
For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit www.licindia.in or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474
Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512
LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath
LIC/P1/2022-23/23/Eng
BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.